

362.7
A-114b
Y-1

STATE OF ALABAMA
THE CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT
MONTGOMERY

DIVISION OF CHILD CARING
INSTITUTIONS

MARIETTE A. SMITH, SUPERVISOR

THE LIBRARY OF THE
MAR 11 1937
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



BULLETIN No. 1
OCTOBER, 1926

362.7
A11148
V. 1

The object of this bulletin is to outline some of the outstanding accomplishments of the various child caring institutions along progressive lines. It is in fact a news bulletin carrying the message of institutions to other institutions. From time to time a bulletin will be published for the exchange of helpful ideas.

Much excellent work has been developed during the year. The superintendents have worked definitely toward defining the function of an institution. The institution is no longer considered the place for all needy or neglected children. The institutional people agree that there are certain types that can best be handled in groups at present, but that no child should be admitted until every effort has been made in the community to adjust the case either in the child's own home or in some other normal home. Also that poverty alone is no excuse for breaking up a home. Emergency work is growing rapidly and is a splendid effort in the way of preserving the home. Early child placing is approved of most heartily, and the keeping of children in institutions, if they can be placed, for long years is admittedly bad in that the child does not learn in an institution how to meet the problems of the world in which he is to live and earn a livelihood.

The tendency is all toward small groups with complete family life in one cottage, community contacts, better medical examinations, preventive dental work and balanced diet.

The co-operation of the institutions has, without exception, been splendid and the program for the coming year should yield great results for the best work along modern lines. The probation officers of the several juvenile courts have rendered valuable assistance in making family investigations wherever requested, and when all of the counties are organized into County Welfare units, this will be the greatest possible asset in our institutional program.

ALABAMA MATERNITY AND INFANTS HOME, MOBILE

Sister Cephas, Superintendent

At least seventy per cent of the babies admitted to this Home are either diseased or undernourished when they are received. They often need most constant care to tide them over. The deaths that have occurred have been either very soon after admission or around six months when the babies are teething. Since the organization of this Department in 1919 there is no record of the death of a child over one year of age. In the birth registration area the death rate of infants under one year of age is seventy per thousand. This naturally includes all types of white babies. We would expect that the children in this Home would have much less chance to live owing to the conditions in which they are received. It is a fact, however, that their death rate is normal and it would be only fair to say that it is more than normal, considering the types of children received.

THE ALABAMA WELFARE ASSOCIATION

The Alabama Welfare Association has opened a small cottage in Birmingham to accommodate eight children at present. It is under careful supervision and the work is being well handled.

THE LIBRARY OF THE

MAR 11 1937

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

11 Mar. 1937 div. g. V. 1 & 2, 1926, 1927 cont. vol. 1

THE ATHENAEUM ORPHANS HOME, BIRMINGHAM

Sister Josephine, Superintendent

This home is situated in the suburbs of Birmingham and has large grounds and gardens. A new wing to the building is being erected and will relieve the congestion in the old building. It is well built of excellent material and will make a very attractive addition to the home. Recently a swimming pool has been added and all the children have learned to swim. This has been the greatest asset possible both for the health and the happiness of the children. Shower baths are provided and good supervision. A one-story building has been erected and is used as an auditorium where the children give their plays and exercises and it is also well suited for moving pictures.

BAPTIST ORPHANAGE, TROY

Dr. J. O. Colly, Superintendent

The Board of this Home has approved a plan of the Superintendent to set aside five thousand dollars to be used as Mothers' Aid. This will be applied both to children who are now in the Home and could be returned to the mother and to new admissions. Some work has already been done on this plan. Without doubt it will be the beginning of a State Mother's Aid and the results obtained in this Home will very greatly assist in the inception of a broader plan.

Twenty-four boys were withdrawn from the public schools who either lacked early opportunity or were misfits in their grades. A student from the Troy Normal School teaches them each day giving them individual instruction. He lives in the Home and so can supervise their study. It is hoped that many of them will be brought up to grade and the personal contact with the teacher has been a material help in every way. The grounds are being rapidly improved and the nature of the buildings is such that there is no institutional appearance.

BOYS' DETENTION HOME, MOBILE

Mr. F. A. Matthews, Superintendent

A psychopathic or psychiatric clinic in connection with the juvenile court has been organized in Mobile and is now functioning. So far as known, Mobile and Memphis are the first cities in the south to establish such a clinic. Juvenile court clinics are now being conducted in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Springfield, Illinois, New York City, Philadelphia, and one has recently been established at Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. E. D. Bondurant, psychiatrist and widely known as a specialist in neurology, will direct the clinic, giving his services to the work without remuneration. Associated with Dr. Bondurant are Dr. E. S. Sledge, Dr. A. E.

Thayer, Dr. John Rush, Dr. J. C. O'Gwynn and others of the local medical fraternity, who have given their services when needed. The Gaillard Warren laboratories make the blood tests required during examinations.

Superintendent Matthews explained that the conduct of the clinic would be impossible in Mobile were it not for the action of the above mentioned specialists in giving their services.

CHILDREN'S HOME, MONTGOMERY

Mrs. Addie Adams, Superintendent

This is a small cottage plant with an average of twenty children in residence, all from Montgomery County. It is especially adapted to the development of family life. The children go to the public schools and to the community church. The garden produces well for the table and the milk supply is plentiful.

Last year an interested person sent one of the young girls to school at Brewton and she will continue another year at least. This year one of the Clubs of the city will send another girl to the same school. A girl and a boy who were both unusually bright have been taken into a splendid home where they will receive every advantage and be educated according to their talents.

CHURCH HOME, MOBILE

Rev. Robert A. Goodwin, Superintendent

The Wilmer Training School will be established in the Church Home some time in October. The purpose is to train young women for church work both in the parish and in institutions. This is the first school of its kind here in the South under the Episcopal Church and the course will extend over one or two years, at least. The students while taking the course will be in charge of groups of children in the Church Home under the direction of the superintendent. The program relating to religious education will be in charge of Reverend R. A. Goodwin and the rectors of other churches. The social service program relating to institutions will be in charge of Miss Mariette A. Smith, Supervisor of Child Caring Institutions, and Mrs. Caroline R. Maclay, Superintendent of the Protestant Orphanage of Mobile. Miss Loula Dunn, Supervisor of the Children's Aid Division of the State Child Welfare Department, will give talks on case work. Hygiene and nursing and practical methods in city and rural work, will be covered in the program, the speakers to be announced.

THE COLORED DETENTION HOME, MOBILE

This Home has been under the special care of the colored probation officer and is doing an excellent piece of work. The garden has produced splendidly this year. It furnished fresh vegetables for the Home and in addition fifty dollars was realized from the sale of produce. This money

was expended in purchasing chickens and hogs. A new chicken yard was built and a good many chickens were contributed. The diet for the children is carefully supervised.

FLORENCE CRITTENTON HOME, MOBILE

Miss Marion McMain, Superintendent

This Home is only about seven years old. It is in the suburbs of Mobile and has good acreage for garden and recreation. The house is in need of much remodeling. Only fourteen girls and babies can be taken at one time. The care of mothers and babies is excellent and the death rate only about one-third of that reported in the birth registration area. The medical care is most excellent and is given without charge by the best physicians of Mobile.

This Department aids in making plans for both girls and babies. This institution serves the entire state in a most admirable way and should receive ample support.

The Girls' Detention Home, of Mobile, and the one in Birmingham expect to be in new quarters in the near future.

THE MASONIC HOME, MONTGOMERY

Mr. George H. Thigpen, Superintendent

This Home is outstanding in its medical and dental work. It has the only equipped hospital in the field with complete dental outfit. A salaried physician is employed to give thorough examination to every child admitted including laboratory tests. He visits the home three times each week and also upon emergency call. The dentist employed is also under salary and the best of preventive work is done.

The next piece of work is to erect a cottage for new admissions so that the children may be under medical supervision until all examinations have been made. This will serve to prevent the bringing in of communicable diseases. The school at this Home is a community school with teachers whose salaries are paid partly by the County Board of Education and partly by the Masonic Home. The older children attend high school in Montgomery. The Masonic Home Band is widely known throughout this state and other states.

MERCY HOME, BIRMINGHAM

Miss Esther Richter, Superintendent

A new cottage for babies and pre-school age children has been erected on Vocational School grounds. It is well built, one-story high and has every modern convenience for child care. The Superintendent of this institution is working in co-operation with the diet specialist at Auburn to bring out a standardized diet for children. This will take in both the child who is

normal physically and the one who is in need of special diet. Some very splendid things have been done in this institution for children who were in need of special diet when admitted. When this work on diet is complete, it will be circulated among the institutions of the state. This is the only institution in the state at present that has case work done for each admission and also gives after care. All of the children received come from the Jefferson County Children's Aid Society.

METHODIST ORPHANAGE, SELMA

Dr. C. W. Northcutt, Superintendent

The old congregate building that has been used for many years is unsuited for use as living quarters for the children and small bungalows are being purchased, as funds are obtained, to house small groups in a complete cottage plan. These buildings are all within the block and give the children the advantage of living exactly as other children live. As soon as possible the large building will be used for offices, a gymnasium, auditorium, etc. No more new building is contemplated.

The new building for babies and pre-school age children was erected upon the best available plans. It is one-story high, has wide porches and ample playgrounds. These children live in a unit with dining room and kitchen in the building. The county nurse gives regular health talks to children and staff.

This orphanage has made an especially fine record during the past year for doing emergency work. Almost sixty per cent of the year's discharges were children who had been in the institution less than one year. Four families with eleven children were rehabilitated and the children returned to them. The children placed were nearly all young and able to make new family adjustments.

THE OAKWOOD SCHOOL FOR COLORED, HUNTSVILLE

Prof. J. A. Tucker, Superintendent

The building occupied by the orphanage has been remodeled and is in good condition. It is in connection with the Oakwood Junior College in charge of the Seventh Day Adventists.

ODD FELLOWS HOME, CULLMAN

Mr. E. B. Miller, Superintendent

The farm belonging to this Home is a wonderful asset. It supplies vegetables, milk, and eggs for the table, and fodder for the cattle. In addition to this, a profit is made that is used for repairs on the place.

Eighty-four milk cows give ample milk and furnish butter. There are over two hundred laying hens and four hundred chickens. The eggs and chickens are used for the table. Last year, the profit from hogs alone was thirteen hundred and twenty-five dollars. They make their own syrup, sauer kraut, butter, pickles and preserved fruit. They preserve a good many vegetables and have sufficient dried beans and peas as well as potatoes, for the year.

The State Department of Education pays for a teacher three and one-half months in the year, and the Home bears the expense for the remainder. Sixteen children come in from the neighborhood. The older children go to high school in town. The Home has a swimming pool, and has asked the Board to erect a gymnasium and a cottage for the older boys.

ORPHANS HOME OF THE SYNOD, TALLADEGA

Rev. E. B. Robinson, Superintendent

Mr. Erskine Ramsay donated funds for building a cottage for the older boys and the family of the Superintendent. The building is of red pressed brick covered with slate. It contains ten rooms and two sleeping porches. Every effort will be made to have this a real home for a group of not more than twenty-four boys. Mr. Ramsay contributed this building in memory of his mother.

The endowment of the Home has been increased from twenty thousand dollars to forty thousand. Through the kindness of a friend of the Home, a director of physical education has been employed to teach the children drills and the important phases of play. An entirely new kitchen has been built with the most modern improvements including a refrigeration plant. The girls and boys are identified with the Scout movement of Talladega. They are members of the different troops in town and this contact both in daily life and in camp work is a distinct social advantage.

THE PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM, MOBILE

Mrs. C. R. Maclay, Superintendent

This orphanage was organized in 1845 and the main part of the present building was erected at that time. It has been gradually enlarged and two years ago was entirely remodeled. It is now one of the most attractive and well equipped homes in the state. The playgrounds are large. The aim of the institution is to care for the children until their own homes are rehabilitated or foster homes can be found, as the institution feels that a home can do more for a child than the best institution. The children in the dining room have small tables with table linen; they have little gardens to care for and their own chickens to feed. The children attend public school and make almost one hundred per cent in promotions each year. There is no resident dentist, but twenty dentists in the city care for three children each, keeping their teeth up to a high standard. These men give their services free of charge.

PYTHIAN HOME, DEL RAIDA, MONTGOMERY

Mr. Travis L. Biggs, Superintendent

The Pythian Home at Del Raida is occupying a one cottage plant. This will accommodate only a small number of children and is all on the family plan. There is plenty of land for gardens and recreation.

SALVATION ARMY MATERNITY HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM

Major Mary Bebout, Superintendent

The citizens of Birmingham have contributed money for a new plant on the Montevallo road with a number of acres of land. The old building on this site will be remodeled and have all modern equipment for hospital care for fifty girls and babies. The kitchen and laundry will be built separate from the house. The present plant is not only crowded and a fire trap, but is badly situated and entirely unsuited for the work.

The care is excellent and the best physicians in Birmingham contribute their services. In the four years just past, four hundred ninety-one girls were admitted and only two died while in the Hospital; three hundred seventy-six babies were born in the Home and eight died. This is an unusual record inasmuch as the mortality of infants under one year of age in the birth registration area is seventy per thousand and the rate in this Hospital is about one-third of that amount.

ST. MARY'S FEMALE ORPHANAGE, MOBILE

Sister Vincent, Superintendent

This is the only orphanage in the state that owns its own summer home. It is located at Battles Wharf right on the beach. It is entirely equipped and is roomy. There is an outdoor dining room that is used except in the worst weather. The children spend about four months during the year in this summer home, and enjoy and profit by the swimming and the outdoor recreation. A number of the old girls who are holding good positions now come back to the summer home for their vacations.

The girls have good training and it is the effort of the institution that all who can shall finish high school. The girls who have gone out are holding good positions as stenographers, trained nurses, teachers, clerks, and many are well and happily married. Constant touch is kept with these girls to encourage them in their work.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS, MOBILE

Brother George, Superintendent

The problem of the older boy is met in a splendid manner in this institution. Eight of the boys of working age are learning trades in Mobile, and

living quarters have been arranged for them in the Home separate from the others to give them more home life and liberty. They are not allowed to spend any money at all until they have a bank account of twenty-five dollars. Then they pay one dollar per week for maintenance and all expenses are under the supervision of the Superintendent. When their trade is learned they will be transferred to the Rectory of St. Mary's Church which has been turned over to the institution as a Senior Boys' Working Home. Here they will pay for maintenance in accordance with their wage and will be instructed in making expenditures and safe investments, so that each boy may have the beginning of a home when he leaves. This Home will be equipped in every way as a real home for the boys. It is an ideal plan for teaching them to learn to live in the world by gradually giving them contacts with it and by making them self-supporting. The Superintendent keeps in touch with the employers of the boys and thus far no boy has failed to make good.

TUGGLE INSTITUTE (COLORED), BIRMINGHAM

Fannie C. Blevins, Superintendent

A small number of colored children are maintained in this most excellent school under the care of the Community Chest. Their care is exceedingly good and the institution has been supervised for many years by a Board of prominent Birmingham people.

ZIMMER MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, MOBILE

Mother Cyrillia, Superintendent

This is a cottage plant for colored children and has been occupied about a year. There is sufficient ground for garden and playground, and the buildings are well equipped.

The following is a list of the counties of the state which have organized their county welfare units under the Act permitting this organization. This Act providing for the establishment of county boards of child welfare is found on page 389 of the General Acts of Alabama, 1923. With the name of each county is given also the name of the probation officer of that county:

County	Post Office Address	Name of Probation Officer
Calhoun.....	Anniston.....	J. Phil Whiteside
Coffee.....	Elba.....	Miss Jean Langston
Covington.....	Andalusia.....	Miss Claudia Weaver
Dallas.....	Selma.....	Miss Emma Julia Thomas
Etowah.....	Gadsden.....	Mrs. W. J. Boykin
Hale.....	Greensboro.....	Miss Elizabeth Allen
Houston.....	Dothan.....	Miss Sallie Shelby Mastin
Jefferson.....	Birmingham.....	Mrs. Harvey Moore
Lee.....	Opelika.....	Mrs. G. L. Gilbert
Mobile.....	Mobile.....	Mrs. Emma Lou Sinclair
Montgomery.....	Montgomery.....	Mrs. S. H. Lurton
Shelby.....	Columbiana.....	Miss Willie Zuber
Tuscaloosa.....	Tuscaloosa.....	Mrs. P. W. Blondheim
Walker.....	Jasper.....	Miss May McCord

THE LIBRARY OF THE
MAR 11 1937
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

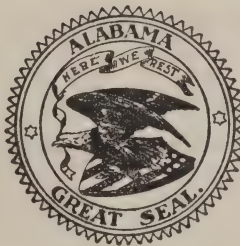
362.7
Al 1146
V.2

STATE OF ALABAMA
THE CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT
MONTGOMERY

DIVISION OF CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS

MARIETTE A. SMITH, SUPERVISOR

THE LIBRARY OF THE
MAR 11 1937
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



BULLETIN NO. 2

MARCH, 1927

THIS BULLETIN WAS PUBLISHED BY THE DIVISION
OF INSTITUTIONS WITH THE COOPERATION AND
APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF CHILD
CARING INSTITUTIONS OF ALABAMA.

Additional Copies may be obtained from the State Child Welfare
Department, State Capitol, Montgomery, Ala.

THE HOME—THE FOUNDATION OF OUR SOCIAL

THE LIBRARY OF THE

ORDER

MAR 11 1937

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The oldest institution is the family. It is older than civilization or governments and is the foundation of the social order. The sacredness of marriage and the responsibility of parents have been, without doubt, the greatest forces in forming high ideals of living. Normal family life requires not only love and self-sacrifice, but understanding of the importance of preparing children to become good citizens and home makers.

The divorce courts are busy dissolving marriage ties and sending children hither and thither to strange homes. Parents re-marry and either neglect or refuse to care for the children of the first marriage. Support is repeatedly compelled in the courts and desertion leaves families broken and children scattered. This feeling of irresponsibility is very evident throughout the entire country, and unless it is checked, the social order will be threatened.

Two hundred years ago the first orphanage was established in this country to care for children orphaned by the Indian massacres. Now there are 1400 institutions caring for 150,000 children at an approximate expense of \$60,000,000 and an additional \$200,000,000 invested in property. Allowing an average of three children to a family, this means that for various reasons, 50,000 homes have ceased to function. The proportion of full orphans in the institutions is very small, but desertion, divorce and poverty are given as reasons for admission, in a large percentage of cases.

Even though institutions have had heavy burdens to bear, child care in orphanages is better today than it has ever been. It takes courage to assume the financial responsibility for the care of the end product of family and community failure. Every child who is taken from his home must be cared for by some one and the public at large makes the contribution. The institutions are witnesses to the process of family disintegration. If we go on at this rate for another hundred years, it is evident that family life will have lost much of its permanence and sacredness.

When the home is unfit and the children suffer by remaining in it, have we a right to dissolve the family tie without first making every effort to remake the home and reunite the family. If there is hope of reconstruction of the home, it is surely lost when parents feel and know that their children can never be returned to them. It

warms our hearts when we save the individual child, but how often could we not do this and also save the family instead of lending a hand to this destructive process?

Clearing Houses

Many modern institutions have so changed their programs that they act only as clearing houses, keeping a child until plans can be made for him in a normal home if possible. His placement should be made only after thorough study of his background, environment and physical and mental condition. If no other plans can be made for him, he is placed in an institution best equipped to care for his particular type. It may be that he is so defective mentally that it is best to place him in an institution caring for the feeble minded. In any event, the child's case receives the attention of trained people and his future is protected and provided for.

The Rights of the Child

Well meaning people urge children deprived of normal homes for institutional care for the reason that they will have greater advantages than in their homes. It is true that a properly equipped institution can give better training, better bodily care and more educational advantages than many homes, but they cannot supply the love of parents or normal home life. This is the inalienable right of the child and should not be withdrawn if it can be secured for him. We could take every poor child, give him good clothes, well balanced food and an education and think that because we have done this, we have done all that is necessary. We forget that we have deprived him of a family and all that goes with it.

Admissions to Institutions

In the present state of society, institutions are needed for special cases. The superintendents of orphanages in this State agree upon the following principles that should guide admissions:

1. That poverty is no excuse for breaking up a home.
2. That case workers should be employed who are trained to make family investigations, and plan for the care of the child throughout dependency.
3. That institutions should in most cases be the last resort for a child instead of the first.
4. That no admission for a child should be considered until efforts for other adjustments have failed.
5. That communities are shirking their responsibilities by urging admissions when adjustments could be made at home.
6. That if children can eventually be placed, the sooner it is done the better, as the youngest children adapt themselves with least difficulty to new surroundings.

7. That plans should be made for older children before they are institutionalized and cannot meet the problems of the world.

They agree that the following types of children are their proper care at this time:

1. Those for whom no adjustment can be made with family or relatives.
2. Those that are non-placeable by reason of their age or physical or mental handicaps, or because of lack of specialized resources for foster home care.
3. Emergency cases awaiting permanent plans and permanent adjustments.

Mothers' Aid

Many states have well administered mothers' pensions or aid funds. This keeps children in their own homes and provides the mother with means to care for them until they are wage earners. In many states this provision is made, not only to help the widow and the children of a father dead, but is applicable if the father is in prison, insane, or too sick to be the bread winner, or if he has deserted the family. The child becomes destitute in each instance. A properly administered mothers' aid in this state would go a long way toward solving the problem of dependent children. When the public awakens to the fact that family life is rapidly disintegrating, we may hope for better things.

Why do we so often make child caring institutions the dumping ground for our responsibilities and send a constant stream of children to knock at strange doors? The causes lie in lack of family organizations, lack of trained workers to make family investigations before admission, and lack of enforcement of measures relating to children, as juvenile court laws, desertion and non-support acts, and other statutes. And there is also lack of social consciousness of the sacredness of marriage and the rights of children.

There is no body of people who work harder or more conscientiously than institutional people. They have long hours and are poorly paid as a rule and for this last reason it is almost impossible to secure trained workers. It is equally impossible to give individual care to large groups. There must be a certain number of rules that apply to all alike and institutionalizing cannot be avoided.

In order to meet the problems of the world with success, children must have opportunity to develop initiative, independence of thinking and knowledge of the world. Parents feel that they have plenty to do to properly rear four or five children. Is it logical to expect an institution to bring about good results with large numbers of children, insufficient equipment, underpaid and untrained workers and a con-

stant struggle for money? We are giving them an impossible task unless we furnish them the means for developing our future citizens and home makers. It is unreasonable to expect a few people to study the needs of large groups of children and give them all the training, love and understanding that they would receive in a normal home.

Experience of One Boy

A boy who had been in one of the best institutions of the state for a number of years was discharged owing to age and ability to earn a living. When he returned on a visit, he stated very frankly his attitude toward the practice that permitted relatives to shirk the responsibility of caring for their own. This is his story:

"When I came to the orphanage, I knew that my relatives were amply able to care for me, but they refused to do this and sent me to an institution supported by charity. From the moment I came in I resented the fact that they had sent me. I felt that I had a right to a normal home life like other children. I was well cared for and kindly treated but my resentment grew daily. You know that I never gave you any trouble for it was not toward you that I felt this resentment, but if you had not let me go out to earn my living when you did, I should have run away, for the feeling had grown until I could not have stayed. If I had run away, I suppose you would have thought that I was a bad boy. You will never know what I suffered. If there had been no relative to give me a home, I should have felt deeply grateful for all the care I had, but I knew that my own people had discarded me when I had a right to be cared for by them.

"You know that even young children have a sense of justice and such hurts last them all their lives. Please don't take children who have relatives who can and ought to care for them. It makes them bitter toward the whole world. Children have a right to a real home if there is one for them and I just wanted to tell you how they feel when they are treated as I was."

A child forgets hunger, cold, neglect and even ill treatment in his own home quicker than he does the hurt that comes when his own family literally gives him away. Isn't it time to think of these things as children do instead of deciding everything ourselves?

The child caring institutions of the State and the Child Welfare Department are in entire accord as to the rights of a child to be brought up in a normal home, if it can be secured for him. With such united convictions, it makes both the institutions and the Child Welfare Department most hopeful for the future of the homes of Alabama and the children of our commonwealth.

THE LIBRARY OF THE
MAR 11 1937
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



STATE OF ALABAMA
THE CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT
MONTGOMERY

DIVISION OF CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS

MARIETTE A. SMITH, SUPERVISOR



THE LIBRARY OF THE
AUG 2 1932
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

BULLETIN NO. 3

APRIL, 1928

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS STUDY WAS COMPILED
FROM RECORDS FURNISHED THIS DEPARTMENT BY
THE DIFFERENT CHILD-CARING
INSTITUTIONS

Additional Copies may be obtained from the State Child Welfare
Department, Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama

363.7
42114-1
no. 3

A STUDY OF CAUSES FOR THE ADMISSION OF 1,173 CHILDREN IN THE PRIVATE CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS OF ALABAMA APRIL, 1927

INSANITY

Inability to care for children owing to insanity of one or both parents was given as the cause for admission of 48 children from 24 families. In four other families, there was insanity of mother or father, but the cases were listed under desertion as that was the cause for admission.

Insanity of Father

In 11 families—22 children—the father was insane. In 9 of these families—16 children—the mother was living, and in two families—5 children—the mother was dead.

Insanity of Mother

In 12 families—23 children—the mother was insane. In three of the families—7 children—the father was dead.

Both Parents Insane

In one family of three children, both parents were insane.

There were 11 one-child families, six two-child families and seven with three children. In three of the three-child families, the parent not insane was dead and so the children were practically orphaned.

Desertion of Family Where One Parent Was Insane

Two mothers deserted children 4 and 10 years of age when the father was insane. Two fathers deserted children 8, 10 and 11 years of age when the mother was insane.

In the cases where the father was insane and the support of the family devolved upon the mother, the ages of the children ranged from 5 years to 15 years, and there was but one three-child family.

There were four three-child families with insane mothers and in two of these the father was dead.

DESERTION

Desertion of one or both parents was given as the cause for admission of 132 children in 76 families.

Desertion of Father

In 57 families—102 children—the fathers deserted. In 12 of these families the mother was dead. There were two one-child families, six with two children, three with three children and one with four children.

In 45 of the families—75 children—the mother was living. Five of the mothers were sick (one with T.B.), two were insane, one feeble-minded and several families had young children.

Desertion of Mother

In 15 families—22 children—the mother deserted. The father was dead in five families and in ten he was living. One father was sick and one was insane. There were 10 one-child families, three with two children and two with three children.

Desertion of Both Parents

Both parents deserted in four families—8 children. In the one child families there were two children aged 5 and 9 years; one family had two children aged 2 and 4. In the 4-child family the ages were 5, 7, 8, 9.

In the 76 families there were—

Forty one-child families
Twenty two-child families
Thirteen three-child families
Two four-child families
One five-child family

The ages ranged from a few months to 15 years.

The children in the 5-child family were deserted by the father and the ages ranged from 2 to 12. The mother was sick.

The father deserted four children after the death of the mother. Their ages were from 5 to 10.

DEPENDENCY

Eight hundred and four children from 443 families were admitted to child-caring institutions owing to death or illness of parents or their inability or unfitness to care for the children.

Three hundred and twenty-nine children in 179 families had no father, 194 children in 99 families were without a mother, both parents of 181 children in 103 families were dead and both living in 62 families having 106 children.

FAMILY STATUS**Father Dead**

163 families with 1 to 3 children each
 16 families with 4 to 6 children each—329 children

Mother Dead

90 families with 1 to 3 children each
 9 families with 4 to 5 children each—194 children

Both Dead

96 families with 1 to 3 children each
 7 families with 4 to 5 children each—181 children

Both Living

59 families with 1 to 3 children each
 3 families with 4 to 5 children each—100 children

TOTAL—443 families—804 children

Ages of Children—

1-child families—1-14 years
 2-child families—1-16 years
 3-child families—1-14 years
 4-child families—1-15 years
 5-child families—1-14 years
 6-child families—6-13 years

In the families where the fathers were dead, there were 5 five-child families, ranging in age from 1 to 12 years. A mother who has borne five children and has stayed in the home without outside employment during that period, has naturally had no contact with the business world and is probably nearing the age of forty. They had evidently accumulated little during those years and the mother may have had many expenses to meet incident to the death of her husband. She would be unfitted by years and probable lack of training and education to take up the burden of maintaining so large a family. If she should secure employment, she would still be facing the problem of suitable care for the children while she was at work.

If the mother was a good woman there was no reason for taking her children away from her and institutional care preserved the family tie. A well administered mothers' aid or pension would have accomplished this by making it possible for the mother to stay at home and care for her children.

There were two 6-child families in the group of dependency. In one family the mother was dead and in the other, the father. It would be quite improbable that either mother or father alone could maintain and give

proper care and protection to families of that size unless there was unusual ability to earn an excellent wage.

The 217 children in the one-child families would seem to have had a better chance for being kept with the parent. In the case of the death of the mother it is always difficult if the father is left with a child to care for, especially if it is young.

RE-MARRIAGE

It happens not infrequently that when one parent re-marries after placing the children in an orphanage, the step-parent refuses to care for the children of the first marriage. It is very doubtful if the return of the children under the circumstances would be for their good. With this handicap, the home conditions would probably afford neither protection nor proper care and the fact that the step-parent did not want them would not be conducive to their happiness.

SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

Inasmuch as this data was gathered from the histories of the children when they were admitted, the facts concerning divorce, separation and step-parents do not apply in many cases without doubt at a later period. Some families may have been re-united, those separated may have been divorced and those already divorced may have re-married, thus affecting the entire marital status of these families.

In 37 families—62 children—there was separation or divorce. Eighteen families had but one child with ages ranging from 2-13 with six under 10 years. Thirteen had two children each ranging from 2 years to 13. Three had three children each ranging from 3 to 12. Three had four children each ranging from 5 to 11 years.

This brings about the fact that 49% of the families were separated or divorced when there was but one child—35% when there were two children—8% when there were three children—8% when there were four children. There is a sharp decline between the percentages in the one and two-child families and in those having three and four children. There is no data to show whether all the children in the two groups were admitted or what type of care was given to those left in charge of a parent.

COURT SENTENCES

Thirty-two children from 18 families were admitted to institutions owing to the fact that one or both parents were under court sentences.

In 13 families—19 children—father sentenced.

In three families—7 children—mother sentenced.

In two families—6 children—both sentenced.

There were eight one-child families—six 2-child families and four 3-child families.

STEP-PARENTS

In 24 families—67 children—there was a step-father, and in 14—28 children—there was a step-mother. This, no doubt, would add to the total of divorces and separations as the data is not definite whether the mother living is the own mother or the step-mother.

SUMMARY

Cause for Admission—	Children	Families
Insanity—Father	22	11
Insanity—Mother	23	12
Insanity—Both parents	3	1
Desertion—Father	102	57
Desertion—Mother	22	15
Desertion—Both parents	8	4
Dependency—Father dead	329	179
Dependency—Mother dead	194	99
Dependency—Both dead	181	103
Dependency—Both living	100	62
Separation or Divorce	62	37
Court Sentences—Father	19	13
Court Sentences—Mother	7	3
Court Sentences—Both parents	6	2
Step-Parents—Father	67	24
Step-Parents—Mother	28	14
	1,173	636

Full orphans	181—16%
Mother dead	249 }
Father dead	358 } 54%
Both living	323—30%

Sixty-two children affected by separation or divorce not included in above percentages.

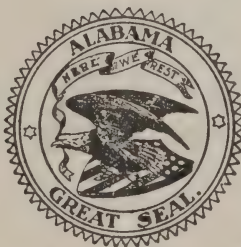
THE LIBRARY OF THE
AUG 2 1932
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

1146
3
42

STATE OF ALABAMA
THE CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT
MONTGOMERY

DIVISION OF CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS

MARIETTE A. SMITH, SUPERVISOR



THE LIBRARY OF THE
JUL 28 1933

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

BULLETIN NO. 3

APRIL, 1928

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS STUDY WAS COMPILED
FROM RECORDS FURNISHED THIS DEPARTMENT BY
THE DIFFERENT CHILD-CARING
INSTITUTIONS

Additional Copies may be obtained from the State Child Welfare
Department, Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama

A STUDY OF CAUSES FOR THE ADMISSION OF 1,173 CHILDREN IN THE PRIVATE CHILD CARING INSTITUTIONS OF ALABAMA APRIL, 1927

INSANITY

Inability to care for children owing to insanity of one or both parents was given as the cause for admission of 48 children from 24 families. In four other families, there was insanity of mother or father, but the cases were listed under desertion as that was the cause for admission.

Insanity of Father

In 11 families—22 children—the father was insane. In 9 of these families—16 children—the mother was living, and in two families—5 children—the mother was dead.

Insanity of Mother

In 12 families—23 children—the mother was insane. In three of the families—7 children—the father was dead.

Both Parents Insane

In one family of three children, both parents were insane.

There were 11 one-child families, six two-child families and seven with three children. In three of the three-child families, the parent not insane was dead and so the children were practically orphaned.

Desertion of Family Where One Parent Was Insane

Two mothers deserted children 4 and 10 years of age when the father was insane. Two fathers deserted children 8, 10 and 11 years of age when the mother was insane.

In the cases where the father was insane and the support of the family devolved upon the mother, the ages of the children ranged from 5 years to 15 years, and there was but one three-child family.

There were four three-child families with insane mothers and in two of these the father was dead.

DESERTION

Desertion of one or both parents was given as the cause for admission of 132 children in 76 families.

Desertion of Father

In 57 families—102 children—the fathers deserted. In 12 of these families the mother was dead. There were two one-child families, six with two children, three with three children and one with four children.

In 45 of the families—75 children—the mother was living. Five of the mothers were sick (one with T.B.), two were insane, one feeble-minded and several families had young children.

Desertion of Mother

In 15 families—22 children—the mother deserted. The father was dead in five families and in ten he was living. One father was sick and one was insane. There were 10 one-child families, three with two children and two with three children.

Desertion of Both Parents

Both parents deserted in four families—8 children. In the one child families there were two children aged 5 and 9 years; one family had two children aged 2 and 4. In the 4-child family the ages were 5, 7, 8, 9.

In the 76 families there were—

Forty one-child families
 Twenty two-child families
 Thirteen three-child families
 Two four-child families
 One five-child family

The ages ranged from a few months to 15 years.

The children in the 5-child family were deserted by the father and the ages ranged from 2 to 12. The mother was sick.

The father deserted four children after the death of the mother. Their ages were from 5 to 10.

DEPENDENCY

Eight hundred and four children from 443 families were admitted to child-caring institutions owing to death or illness of parents or their inability or unfitness to care for the children.

Three hundred and twenty-nine children in 179 families had no father, 194 children in 99 families were without a mother, both parents of 181 children in 103 families were dead and both living in 62 families having 106 children.

62.1
6/14/6
no. 3
exp. 2

FAMILY STATUS**Father Dead**

163 families with 1 to 3 children each

16 families with 4 to 6 children each—329 children

Mother Dead

90 families with 1 to 3 children each

9 families with 4 to 5 children each—194 children

Both Dead

96 families with 1 to 3 children each

7 families with 4 to 5 children each—181 children

Both Living

59 families with 1 to 3 children each

3 families with 4 to 5 children each—100 children

TOTAL—443 families—804 children**Ages of Children—**

1-child families—1-14 years

2-child families—1-16 years

3-child families—1-14 years

4-child families—1-15 years

5-child families—1-14 years

6-child families—6-13 years

In the families where the fathers were dead, there were 5 five-child families, ranging in age from 1 to 12 years. A mother who has borne five children and has stayed in the home without outside employment during that period, has naturally had no contact with the business world and is probably nearing the age of forty. They had evidently accumulated little during those years and the mother may have had many expenses to meet incident to the death of her husband. She would be unfitted by years and probable lack of training and education to take up the burden of maintaining so large a family. If she should secure employment, she would still be facing the problem of suitable care for the children while she was at work.

If the mother was a good woman there was no reason for taking her children away from her and institutional care preserved the family tie. A well administered mothers' aid or pension would have accomplished this by making it possible for the mother to stay at home and care for her children.

There were two 6-child families in the group of dependency. In one family the mother was dead and in the other, the father. It would be quite improbable that either mother or father alone could maintain and give

proper care and protection to families of that size unless there was unusual ability to earn an excellent wage.

The 217 children in the one-child families would seem to have had a better chance for being kept with the parent. In the case of the death of the mother it is always difficult if the father is left with a child to care for, especially if it is young.

RE-MARRIAGE

It happens not infrequently that when one parent re-marries after placing the children in an orphanage, the step-parent refuses to care for the children of the first marriage. It is very doubtful if the return of the children under the circumstances would be for their good. With this handicap, the home conditions would probably afford neither protection nor proper care and the fact that the step-parent did not want them would not be conducive to their happiness.

SEPARATION AND DIVORCE

Inasmuch as this data was gathered from the histories of the children when they were admitted, the facts concerning divorce, separation and step-parents do not apply in many cases without doubt at a later period. Some families may have been re-united, those separated may have been divorced and those already divorced may have re-married, thus affecting the entire marital status of these families.

In 37 families—62 children—there was separation or divorce. Eighteen families had but one child with ages ranging from 2-13 with six under 10 years. Thirteen had two children each ranging from 2 years to 13. Three had three children each ranging from 3 to 12. Three had four children each ranging from 5 to 11 years.

This brings about the fact that 49% of the families were separated or divorced when there was but one child—35% when there were two children—8% when there were three children—8% when there were four children. There is a sharp decline between the percentages in the one and two-child families and in those having three and four children. There is no data to show whether all the children in the two groups were admitted or what type of care was given to those left in charge of a parent.

COURT SENTENCES

Thirty-two children from 18 families were admitted to institutions owing to the fact that one or both parents were under court sentences.

In 13 families—19 children—father sentenced.

In three families—7 children—mother sentenced.

In two families—6 children—both sentenced.

There were eight one-child families—six 2-child families and four 3-child families.

STEP-PARENTS

In 24 families—67 children—there was a step-father, and in 14—28 children—there was a step-mother. This, no doubt, would add to the total of divorces and separations as the data is not definite whether the mother living is the own mother or the step-mother.

SUMMARY

Cause for Admission—	Children	Families
Insanity—Father	22	11
Insanity—Mother	23	12
Insanity—Both parents	3	1
Desertion—Father	102	57
Desertion—Mother	22	15
Desertion—Both parents	8	4
Dependency—Father dead	329	179
Dependency—Mother dead	194	99
Dependency—Both dead	181	103
Dependency—Both living	100	62
Separation or Divorce	62	37
Court Sentences—Father	19	13
Court Sentences—Mother	7	3
Court Sentences—Both parents	6	2
Step-Parents—Father	67	24
Step-Parents—Mother	28	14
	1,173	636

Full orphans	181—16%
Mother dead	249 }
Father dead	358 } 54%
Both living	323—30%

Sixty-two children affected by separation or divorce not included in above percentages.

THE LIBRARY OF THE
JUL 28 1933

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS